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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,490	09/29/2003	Kwang Hyo Chung	123034-05004739	8465
43569	7590	10/31/2005	EXAMINER	
MAYER, BROWN, ROWE & MAW LLP 1909 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20006			NAGPAUL, JYOTI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1743	
DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/671,490	CHUNG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jyoti Nagpaul	1743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 - 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/29/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Buechler (US 6271040).

Buechler teaches an assay device which comprises of flow control elements, measurement elements and time gates. (See Abstract) The device includes at least one storage chamber/sample addition zone (1) to which a fluid is injected and store; at least one reaction chamber (4) in which a predetermined reaction is occurred to the fluid; at least one exhaust chamber (7) in which the used fluid is exhausted; at least one connecting channel (See Figure 1) which connects the storage chamber/sample addition zone (1), reaction chamber (4), and exhaust chamber (7) so that the fluid is movable; at least one flow delay part/sample reaction barrier (3) which is formed within connecting channel and delays flow of the fluid by the surface tension of the fluid; and at least one stop valve/time gate (5) which is formed within connecting channel (See Figure 1) and stops the flow of the fluid by the surface tension. Buechler teaches, "the time gate 5 holds the reaction mixture in the reaction chamber 4 for a given period of time. The concept of the time gate is that a predominantly aqueous solution cannot pass through a sufficiently hydrophobic zone until the hydrophobic zone is made

sufficiently hydrophilic. Furthermore, the hydrophobic zone is made hydrophilic through the binding of a component in the aqueous solution to the hydrophobic zone.” (See Col. 11, Lines 15-15-21) The fluid moves from the storage chamber/sample addition zone (1) to the reaction chamber (4) and exhaust chamber (7) by means of the surface tension while exchange of the fluid naturally occurs in the reaction chamber (4).

Buechler teaches, “Fluid flow on a surface or in a capillary is affected by the surface tension of the fluid.” (See Col. 27, Lines 61-62) The device at least one connecting channel adjust the surface tension by increasing or decreasing a width of the path or by performing surface modification or temperature change so that the fluid reliably moves.

Buechler teaches, “For example, in a capillary channel that is formed by essentially planar walls that intersect along corners, fluid flow preferentially precedes along the corners. The predisposition for fluid flow to proceed at corners occurs because the corners of a capillary create the lowest surface tension for the fluid.” (See Col. 27, Lines 62-67) (See Figure 1) The flow delay part/sample reaction barrier (3) adjusts the surface tension by having hydrophilic or hydrophobic property through a channel surface of the valve, deforming the channel geometry or changing a temperature of the channel surface of the valve. (See Figure 1) The at least one exhaust chamber (7) includes a structure which keeps the flow of the fluid smooth by increasing the surface tension and makes the preceding portion of the fluid uniform when the fluid flows to prevent fine air bubbles from being occurred. Buechler teaches, “when a uniform flow front is required within a capillary, the reduced surface tension at corners of the capillary can cause a non-uniform flow front. Non-uniform flow fronts can result in the creation of

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air pockets within the capillary. If air pockets occur, wetting of the capillary surfaces within the air pocket is impaired or prevented. Embodiments of this invention which comprise hydrophobic areas on a luminal surface of a capillary space act to control fluid flow within capillaries, and more specifically to minimize fluid flow at the corners of capillaries so that the fluid flow front is convex rather than concave." (See Col. 28, Lines 1-21) The at least one connecting channel includes an isolation threshold to prevent reactant among plurality of the reaction chamber (4) from diffusing. Buechler teaches, "The volume of sample which fills the sample-reaction barrier 3 (FIG. 1A) should be kept to a minimum, from about 0.01% to 10% of the reaction chamber 4 volume so that the reagents of the reaction chamber 4 do not significantly diffuse back into the sample in the sample addition reservoir 2. That is, the diffusion of the reaction mixture back into the excess sample should be kept to a minimum so that the chemical or biochemical reactions occurring in the reaction mixture are not substantially influenced by the excess sample in the sample addition reservoir 2." (See Col. 9, Lines 32-41) Buechler further teaches, "The biosensor comprises an optical transducer." (See Claim 3)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jyoti Nagpaul whose telephone number is 571-272-1273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday (8:00-4:30).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JN



LYLE A. ALEXANDER
PRIMARY EXAMINER